

AMENDMENT TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the specification by marked up replacement paragraph(s) as follows.

Please replace paragraph [06] on page 4 with the following:

-- These and other needs are addressed by the present invention, in which an approach is presented for providing a Message Waiting Indication (MWI) service to an instant communication (IC or instant messaging (IM)) client. A Service Platform communicates with one or more voice mail systems over a circuit-switched telephone system or packet-switched network to obtain MWI information corresponding to a voice mail message resident on the voice mail system. The platform utilizes a user database that stores a user profile which specifies the voice mail systems ~~serve~~ serving the called numbers of the user, as well as one or more instant communication clients that are to receive the MWI information for display. The platform supports the display of multiple notifications via a single IC client, thereby creating a convenience feature for a user who may have multiple telephones (e.g. home1, home2, cell1, cell2, office1, remote phone1) but desires to receive MWI services via one common interface. The above arrangement advantageously provides an integrated approach to telephony services using existing communication infrastructure. This approach also provides service providers with a new, viable source of revenue. --